

T E S T I M O N I A L S

IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF

JOHN B. COWAN, M.D.,

FELLOW OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW;
PHYSICIAN TO THE GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY; LECTURER ON FORENSIC MEDICINE,
ANDERSON'S UNIVERSITY, GLASGOW; MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF
MEDICINE OF ATHENS, AND OF THE PARISIEN MEDICAL SOCIETY;
FORMERLY CIVIL PHYSICIAN TO THE ARMY IN THE EAST;

*CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIR OF PRACTICE OF PHYSIC
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.*



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To the
Right Hon. SIR GEORGE GREY, Bart., M.P.

8 BRANDON PLACE,
GLASGOW, 7th July, 1862.

SIR,

The Professor of Practice of Physic in the University of Glasgow having announced his intention of resigning the Chair, I beg leave respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate, and to submit to your consideration some of the grounds on which I base my application.

I am a Graduate of the University, and received within its walls a liberal education. On the conclusion of an extended curriculum of seven years, I devoted one session to professional study in Paris, and subsequently spent many months in observing the practice of the chief Continental and Metropolitan Hospitals. For two years I was Resident Medical Officer of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, one of the most important Hospitals in the Kingdom; and for nearly ten years I have been actively engaged in practice as a Physician in this city.

At present I hold the appointment of Physician to the Royal Infirmary, in which capacity it forms part of my duty to impart instruction in Practical Medicine to the numerous Students of that Hospital.

For six years I have been Lecturer on Forensic Medicine in the important Institution in Glasgow known as "Anderson's University," and my lectures have been largely attended, not only by Students of Medicine, but also by members of the Legal profession.

At a critical period, and at some personal sacrifice, I accepted the appointment of Civil Physician to the Army in the East, which was offered me; and for volunteered services rendered in the camp during a pressing emergency I received the thanks of the Head of the Army Medical Department.

I may add that I have contributed largely to the Medical Literature of the day, and for eight years was Editor of the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, a quarterly periodical of established reputation.

If appointed to the vacant professorship, no effort will be spared by me to discharge its duties efficiently, and to promote the welfare and honour of the University with which I have always maintained an intimate connection.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN B. COWAN, M.D.,

*Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and
Surgeons of Glasgow.*

TESTIMONIALS.

From WILLIAM STOKES, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., Physician in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland; Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Dublin.

MERRION SQUARE,
DUBLIN, 30th June, 1862.

In offering my testimony to the fitness of DR. JOHN COWAN to be appointed to the Chair of Medicine in the University of Glasgow, I beg to premise that I do so after a long and intimate knowledge of his claims to be considered as a physician of the best and highest class.

Looking at the present condition and extent of the science of medicine, it is plain that the occupier of an University Chair in a great Medical School should possess not only high but varied qualifications. Such a professor should be at once a learned and a practical man—learned not alone in the literature of medicine, but as a master of its accessory branches; and practical, as shown by his works and by the verdict of his brethren and the public.

His experience should be large, and his opportunities for observation extended and varied. He should also be a zealous man, having that kind of influence on all his hearers as would make them wish to follow science for its own sake.

In my humble opinion these qualifications are possessed by DR. COWAN in a singularly high degree, and I do not entertain any doubt that his selection by the Crown for the Professorship of Medicine in the University of Glasgow would tend to preserve and largely advance the reputation of its school and the interests of medicine in these countries.

DR. COWAN has added much to the literature of medicine, and I only give utterance to the opinions of many of the most distinguished members of the profession when I submit that there is not one of his writings that is not a valuable contribution to the healing art.

WILLIAM STOKES, M.D.

From E. A. PARKES, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Military Hygiene in the Army Medical School; lately Professor of Clinical Medicine in University College, London.

FORT PITT,
CHATHAM, 19th June, 1862.

I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony to the qualifications of DR. COWAN for the Professorship of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. I have been acquainted with DR. COWAN for several years, and have had particular opportunities of forming a correct judgment of his abilities and professional knowledge. Of both I have the highest opinion. Both in writing and speaking DR. COWAN has great facilities of expression, and I should think he would communicate his knowledge very simply and easily. On this account he appears to be specially well adapted for a Teacher of Medicine. Of DR. COWAN's contributions to medical literature I need scarcely speak. Several of these contributions are anonymous, and are contained in the pages of the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, of which periodical he was formerly the editor. They are distinguished by fullness of information and accuracy of expression. DR. COWAN has also had great experience in his profession.

I believe, therefore, that DR. COWAN's abilities, industry, experience, and power of expression will render him a most efficient teacher.

E. A. PARKES, M.D., F.R.S.

From ROBERT D. LYONS, M.D., M.R.I.A., *Professor of Medicine and Pathology in the Catholic University of Ireland; Physician to Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin.*

8 MERRION SQUARE,
DUBLIN, 2d June, 1862.

I feel very great pleasure in expressing the high opinion which I entertain of the abilities and professional acquirements of DR. JOHN B. COWAN.

DR. COWAN has been long and intimately known to me, and both in these countries and while engaged in a professional capacity abroad, I have had most ample opportunities of judging of DR. COWAN'S skill and zeal in the discharge of professional duties. The position to which DR. COWAN was named during the late Russian war is evidence of the estimation in which he is held, while his *voluntary* service to the sick and wounded in the Crimea entitle him to the highest consideration.

DR. COWAN'S writings on subjects of Practical Medicine, and his experience as a Lecturer, qualify him in an eminent degree for the duties of the Professorship which he now seeks. I am confident that I give expression to a belief widely entertained by his friends and colleagues when I say that DR. COWAN'S appointment to the Chair in question will be received with approbation by the profession at large.

ROBERT D. LYONS, M.D.

From ROBERT WM. SMITH, M.D., *Professor of Surgery in the University of Dublin; Surgeon to the Richmond Hospital, &c., &c.*

ECCLES STREET,
DUBLIN, June, 1862.

I have had the pleasure and advantage of knowing DR. COWAN for several years, and I am sure that I am only

expressing the sentiments of a large portion of the medical profession in saying that there are few of his standing that have laboured more efficiently in the furtherance of medical science. At the bedside and in the dissecting-room he has been equally distinguished. He is one of those who possess that combination of talent, industry, and enthusiasm, with a pure love of truth, which are sure to elevate him in his profession. The zeal and ability displayed in his writings constitute a sufficient guarantee of his capability to discharge, with the best effects, the duties of a public teacher. As a Lecturer upon Forensic Medicine he has already been eminently successful, and I need not say that I shall consider his appointment to the Professorship of the Practice of Medicine as a most fortunate circumstance to its interests, and to those of science and humanity.

ROBERT WM. SMITH, M.D.

From WILLOUGHBY F. WADE, M.D., Senior Physician to the Queen's Hospital and Professor of the Practice of Physic in the Queen's College, Birmingham.

It affords me much pleasure to have an opportunity of stating the high opinion I entertain of DR. JOHN B. COWAN. Our acquaintance commenced more than ten years ago in Paris, and I was struck from the first with the acute perceptiveness, the unremitting assiduity, and the accurate knowledge which he displayed.

Since then, DR. COWAN has, I believe, spared no pains to extend his acquaintance with medical literature, and to improve his clinical knowledge.

Well knowing the faculties and accomplishments which are essential to the production of a successful Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, I can most conscientiously state my belief that DR. COWAN possesses them in an eminent degree, and, consequently, that his appointment to

that important Chair in the University of Glasgow would materially conduce to the scientific reputation of the school and to the interests of its students.

WILLOUGHBY F. WADE, M.D.

*From D. PANTALEONI, M.D., formerly of Rome, now of
Turin and Nice.*

THE ATHENÆUM, LONDON,
31st May, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am very glad to hear from you that there is a vacancy for the Chair of Practical Medicine in your Glasgow University, and I strongly advise you to persist in your resolution to come forward for it. I have always thought that the nature of your talent, and the turn of your mind, made you particularly fit to fulfil a situation in public instruction. You do not only happen to possess that power of keen observation, and of rapid and large comprehension, which constitute the best gifts of a good practitioner, but you are highly endowed with another talent which is even more necessary to serve to public teaching, I mean the talent of formulating well the result of the observations in those clear and definite terms which constitute, in fact, the real boundaries of the science of the day. Make a good synthesis of all the facts to deduce a principle, be not seduced by the love of deduction to go beyond the *valeur* of the facts, seem to me to form the most difficult task, as the best qualities of a teacher. But any ingenuous reader cannot help to acknowledge how brilliant those qualities appear in those papers with which you enriched our science. I feel sure to affirm that your countrymen could not wish for a better choice in that important branch of medical instruction, and I hope to be able to hear soon that you have been preferred to fill up that situation.—Believe me always, my dear DR. COWAN, yours truly,

D. PANTALEONI, M.D.

From JOHN E. ERICHSEN, ESQ., F.R.C.S., *Professor of
Surgery, University College, London.*

6 CAVENDISH PLACE,
CAVENDISH SQUARE, W., LONDON.

DR. COWAN has been well known to me for many years as a most able and accomplished physician.

His general scientific attainments and his practical acquirements eminently qualify him to be a Teacher of Medicine, and his moral worth indicates him as being peculiarly fitted to act as an example and guide to the junior members of his profession.

DR. COWAN consequently appears to me to be in all respects, scientifically, practically, and morally, in the highest degree qualified for the Professorship of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

JOHN E. ERICHSEN, F.R.C.S.

From JOHN BEDDOE, B.A., M.D., *Physician to the Bristol
Royal Infirmary.*

2 CLAREMONT PLACE, CLIFTON,
31st May, 1862.

Having enjoyed, while acting as a colleague of DR. JOHN B. COWAN on the Staff of the British Army Hospital in the Dardanelles, the opportunity of becoming intimately acquainted with the merits of that gentleman, I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that he is highly qualified to fill the vacant Professorship of Medicine in the University of Glasgow. I base my opinion on his great general accomplishments; on his extensive acquaintance with medical literature; on the varied experience he has acquired in the observation and treatment of disease in this and other countries; and on the respect and esteem which his high principle and urbane manners, as well as his intellectual ability, have won from his professional brethren in the three kingdoms.

JOHN BEDDOE, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.

From SIR JAMES CLARK, BART., M.D., *Physician in Ordinary to the Queen.*

BAGSHOT PARK,
23d June, 1862.

I have great pleasure in expressing the high opinion I entertain of DR. COWAN'S acquirements and practical knowledge of his profession. My opinion was formed chiefly from the conversations I had with DR. COWAN before his departure for, and after his return from, attending the sick of our army in the East; and my opinion was confirmed by that of Dr. Parkes, from his observation of DR. COWAN'S powers as a practical physician. From all I know of DR. COWAN, I believe him well qualified for the Chair of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

JAMES CLARK, M.D.

From C. F. MAUNDER, ESQ., F.R.C.S., *Assistant Surgeon to the London Hospital.*

29 NEW BROAD STREET,
LONDON, 7th June, 1862.

The high professional position which DR. J. B. COWAN has acquired by his own industry and perseverance, coupled with the estimation in which he is held by his professional brethren, lead me to believe that he will fill the Chair of Medicine in the University with honour to himself and with satisfaction and advantage to his pupils.

C. F. MAUNDER, F.R.C.S.

From JOHN C. STEELE, M.D., *Medical Superintendent of Guy's Hospital, London; F.F.P. & S.G.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, GUY'S HOSPITAL,
LONDON, 4th July, 1862.

It affords me great pleasure to learn that DR. J. B. COWAN is a Candidate for the Professorship of Medicine, vacant in

Glasgow College by the retirement of Dr. Macfarlane, as I am convinced that his appointment would tend greatly to promote the objects of medical education in the University. DR. COWAN has in great measure qualified himself for the task by his numerous favourable antecedents, which all who know him will willingly bear witness to. He is already well known as a successful teacher of the cognate branch of science, Medical Jurisprudence, and as a physician to the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow he enjoys the very best means of practically illustrating to the students the nature and effects of disease and its remedies. From these facts, coupled with his habits of industry and desire for information, as well as the pleasure he takes in instructing others, I am convinced, that if appointed to the vacant office, DR. COWAN would amply fulfil the wishes of the patrons, and reflect additional lustre on the University of Glasgow.

JOHN C. STEELE.

From JAMES WALLACE, A.M., M.D., F.F.P. & S.G., *Surgeon to the Greenock Infirmary.*

GREENOCK, 9th June, 1862.

DR. COWAN has been intimately known to me for upwards of twelve years. In the earlier part of his career he devoted himself with assiduity and success to the study of general literature and philosophy, and with the result, at the same time, of acquiring those habits of method and research which he has since been able to turn to excellent account in the immediate objects of professional life. As a student of medicine he displayed a strong predilection and aptitude for the work of the physician, to qualify himself for which he spent, after serving as one of the house-physicians to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, a considerable time in the observation of disease and its modes of treatment as presented not only in several of the large hospitals of this country, but also in the

most celebrated of those of the Continent. From the experience thus acquired he was encouraged and enabled, in conjunction with a few ardent cultivators of medical science, to originate a medical periodical in the West of Scotland, and to continue as one of its editors until its success as one of the ordinary organs of the profession was fully established and secured. The papers which he contributed to this periodical, in the shape of original articles and reviews, show that he is possessed of the chief qualifications requisite for one who would aspire to be an independent investigator, a sound practitioner, and a judicious teacher. Leaving it to others to speak of his success and services as one of the physicians sent out by Government to the Crimea during the Russian war, as Physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and as Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the Andersonian University, I would only farther remark, that he possesses in an eminent degree the faculty of communicating orally his ideas with that readiness, precision, and force which are absolutely necessary in all who would occupy an academical chair with credit to themselves and advantage to their pupils.

JAMES WALLACE, A.M., M.D.

From HERMANN VELTEN, M.D., *Aix-la-Chapelle.*

AIX-LA-CHAPELLE, *May*, 1862.

It gives me great pleasure to certify that I have known DR. JOHN COWAN, of Glasgow, years ago, and that I came in contact with a great many of his patients, whom he sent to Aix-la-Chapelle. From what I have seen of him, as well as learned from other professional men, I am entitled to state that he is an able, intelligent, well-informed, and acute physician, as well as trustworthy author, who would do credit to the Chair of Practice of Medicine, which, as I hear, is vacant at present in Glasgow.

DR. HERMANN VELTEN, M.D.

*From HENRY H. GOODEVE, M.D., F.R.C.P., London, formerly
Professor of Anatomy in the University of Calcutta.*

COOK'S FOLLY, STOKE BISHOP,
BRISTOL, 1st June, 1862.

I have known DR. J. COWAN for many years, and have had considerable opportunity during that time, and more especially when he served on the Civil Medical Staff during the late war, of observing his professional qualifications and personal character, which it gives me great pleasure to have any occasion to testify are of a very high order.

I consider him eminently fitted to hold the position of Professor of Practice of Physic, which I understand he is now seeking to obtain.

HENRY H. GOODEVE, M.D.

*From WILLIAM ROBERTSON, M.D., F.R.S.E., Fellow of the
Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Medical Registrar for Scotland.*

EDINBURGH, 10th July, 1862.

DR. JOHN B. COWAN, of Glasgow, has been for more than seven years well known to me as a practitioner of estimable character, and of great natural abilities, successfully cultivated both as regards literature and medical science.

While associated with him in medical service near Dardanelles during the Crimean war, I had abundant opportunities of observing the extent of his professional acquirements.

As a medical journalist he has more recently proved himself a ready and elegant writer, a fair critic, and one who keeps the honour and welfare of his profession steadily in view. He has likewise had the advantage of several years' experience as a public lecturer in Glasgow.

These qualifications render him, in my opinion, an eligible Candidate for the vacant Chair of Practice of Physic.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, M.D., F.R.C.P., Edin.

From WILLIAM AITKEN, M.D., Professor of Pathology in the Army Medical School; formerly Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Glasgow.

CHATHAM, 12th July, 1862.

I have known DR. COWAN personally for a period of fourteen years. I am acquainted with his writings and contributions to the medical literature of the day, and especially as one of the editors of the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, which contains many valuable contributions from his pen. Amongst others I would especially refer to a most interesting account of cases of Facial Paralysis and Anæsthesia. I certify with much pleasure, also, to the diligence and success with which he has devoted himself to the practice of medicine, and to the high standing he has acquired in his native city as a physician to the hospital there, and as one who enjoys a large share of public confidence.

I would especially, also, bear testimony to the untiring industry and perseverance of DR. COWAN, and to the very systematic way in which he devotes his time to general literature as well as to the science of his own profession. I believe him to be not only an accomplished practical physician, but a man of a highly cultivated mind, of an amiable disposition, and great activity of intellect.

From what I know of DR. COWAN, personally and professionally, I believe him to be eminently qualified to teach the Science and Practice of Medicine from the Chair in the University of Glasgow, which he aspires to fill.

WILLIAM AITKEN, M.D.

(The two following Testimonials were obtained when DR. COWAN was a Candidate for his present Lectureship).

*From ALLEN THOMSON, ESQ., M.D., F.R.S., Professor of
Anatomy in the University of Glasgow, &c., &c.*

COLLEGE,
GLASGOW, 30th July, 1856.

Although I have made it a general rule to abstain from offering an opinion as to the merits of candidates for the situation of public teachers in those branches of medicine to which I have not given my special attention, yet I feel that, in the 'case of one with whom I have been so intimately acquainted and connected as DR. J. B. COWAN, I cannot refrain from adding my testimony to that of others to his great merits. I will not presume to speak particularly of his qualifications to teach forensic medicine, for that is a matter on which I am scarcely entitled to offer an opinion; but I may be permitted to bear testimony to what I have had the best opportunities of knowing, viz., his literary, scientific, and professional attainments, his superior abilities, and excellent personal qualities.

DR. COWAN possesses great advantages in entering on the business of a public teacher, from the facility, clearness, and elegance with which he expresses himself in writing and speaking. His acquaintance with the ancient and modern languages, while it has cultivated his taste, gives him full access to all the best sources of scientific and professional information. All who know him will bear testimony to the readiness with which he acquires knowledge, and his ability in mastering and reasoning upon any subject he undertakes to study. DR. COWAN has made the best use of very extensive opportunities of obtaining professional knowledge; he is very ardent at all times in its pursuit; and the character of his mind leads him to take a highly scientific view of professional subjects. His amiable personal qualities and strictly honourable feeling and conduct must not be without

their weight on the present occasion, for they will secure for him the affection and respect of his pupils. In conclusion, I will only add that I know few men of his standing better fitted by ability, information, and disposition, to obtain success as a public teacher, and to add to the reputation of any school with which he may be connected.

ALLEN THOMSON, M.D.

*From the late Very Rev. DUNCAN MACFARLAN, D.D.,
Principal of Glasgow University.*

THE COLLEGE,
GLASGOW, 3d Sept., 1856.

I hereby certify that DR. JOHN B. COWAN was educated at the University of Glasgow, and that while there he was distinguished for diligence, talents, and proficiency in not only his professional studies, but in other branches of science and literature, as was evinced by his attaining high honours for essays in various departments of general knowledge.*

D. MACFARLAN, *Principal.*

* [DR. COWAN gained "The Gartmore Gold Medal for the best Essay on the Moral Effects of a Legal Provision for the Poor." The competition for this Prize was open to all actual Students of the University. He also gained "The Burns' Prize," open to all Students of Medicine; and during his University Course he carried off prizes in the Classes of Practice of Physic, Midwifery, Botany, Materia Medica (2), Logic, and Greek (2).]
